

# BENT RIM BUGLE

\$2.00

Vol. 6 No. 1

Spring 1992

A Publication of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association



CENTER STAGE, AT THE MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING...

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## Meeting? — What Meeting? —

This years annual meeting was a success. There were approximately 200 people in attendance. Everyone there had the pleasure of seeing a fantastic animated display that was put together by Chris Delridge, president of the Southeastern chapter of the MMBA. The display was at least 25 feet long and consisted of examples of work done by each local chapter of the MMBA, as well as the t-shirts of some chapters, brochures and other interesting examples of what the local chapters are up to. Chris designed the display to accommodate a small TV which was playing mountain biking videos. The display was also lighted and awash with color. If you missed it you definitely miss something special this year.

At this year's annual meeting we were also thrilled by Bob Lawson on his Slingshot trials bike as he opened the meeting with a trials' demonstration. His talents were both challenged and highlighted by a maze of man made obstacles. Bob built the stage set-up himself and has performed at many events throughout Michigan using his collection of boxes, ramps, staircases and homemade plywood  
(cont. on pg. 20)



# DNR Trails Update . . .

BY PHIL WELLS REC. DIVISION DNR

## National Recreational Trails Fund

New federal dollars for recreation trails will soon be available to the states. The Surface Transportation Act was recently passed by Congress and signed by the President; it includes the Symms National Recreational Trails Fund Act. The Symms Act authorizes \$30 million per year from the federal gas tax for motorized and non-motorized trails; we estimate that Michigan would get \$2-3 million. The administration budget includes \$15 million for fiscal year 1992-1993, which begins October 1, 1992; Michigan would probably get \$1-1.5 million of that.

The program is administered at the federal level by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Governor must designate the state agency who gets the funds. If the DNR receives this designation, we will develop a process for allocation of the funds.

Thirty percent of the money must be spent for non-motorized trails, 30 percent for motorized, and the remaining 40 percent for multi-use trails. The money can be used for land acquisition for trails, trail development, and trail operation and maintenance. Each state must create an advisory board to advise the state on use of the funds.

If mountain bikers want a piece of this new pie, they will need to work towards that end. Future issues will keep the *Bent Rim Bugle* readers abreast of how this program develops in Michigan and how you can have input.

## NATIONAL TRAILS DAY: SATURDAY, JUNE 5 1993

(Information compiled from *National Trails Day Newsletter*)

Mark this date on your calendar now as the first National Trails Day. Scheduled to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the National Trails system Act, this nationwide event will unite trail users, trail advocates, and the outdoor industry in a day spent enjoying trails of all kinds.

What are the goals of National Trails Day?  
(continued on page 19)

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY - YOUR TRAILS ARE  
WHAT YOU MAKE THEM.

"...THE GOVERNOR  
MUST DESIGNATE  
THE STATE  
AGENCY WHO  
GETS THE  
FUNDS..." SEV-  
ERAL MILLION  
DOLLARS FOR  
NON-MOTORIZED  
USE.

## MMBA Responsibility Code

1. Always yield the right of way to other trail users.
2. Slow down and pass with care (or stop).
3. Control your speed at all times.
4. Stay on designated trails
5. Don't disturb wildlife or livestock.
6. Pack out litter.
7. Respect public and private property.
8. Know local rules.
9. Plan ahead.
10. Avoid riding in large groups.
11. Minimize impact.
12. Report incidents of trail impasse to local park authorities.



## NOTES FOR YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ FANNY PACK: \_\_\_\_\_

### Note 1:

### TAKE YOUR FRIENDS FOR A RIDE. RIDE THE NATIONAL BIKE RIDE!

Want to thank your friends for all the nice things they've done for you? Take them for a ride...the National Bike Ride! They'll love it and so will you.

The National Bike Ride, sponsored by the Bicycle Institute of America, is an annual ride-anywhere, ride-any-distance "event" designed to get as many people as possible (including you and your friends!) riding bikes at the same time - just for the FUN of it!

Now in its third year, the National Bike Ride Will take place on the third weekend of May - Friday the 15th, Saturday the 16th, and Sunday the 17th in 1992.



All ages and abilities are invited to join in. The rules are simple:

1) Just ride a bicycle any distance, for any purpose, anywhere in the U.S. on May 15, 16 and/or 17.

2) You are encouraged to wear a bicycle helmet and ride at your own pace.

For more information or to receive a National Bike Ride pin from the BIA, send

\$3.00 per pin (check or money order only, please) with your name and address to:

"I Rode the National Bike Ride!"

P.O. Box 588

Middlebury, VT 05753

### Note 2:

### NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL ASSOCIATION SPRING MEETING: MAY 15-17 IN WHITE CLOUD MI -

The annual spring meeting of the NCTA will again be held this year at the Shack Country Inn, 2263 14th St., White Cloud, MI 49349. The spring meeting is held each year to elect officers, to consider and make decisions on timely matters concerning the development of the NCT, and to unite the members of the NCTA. For more information contact: North Country Trail Association, P.O. Box 311, White Cloud, MI 49349.

(notes cont. on page 4)



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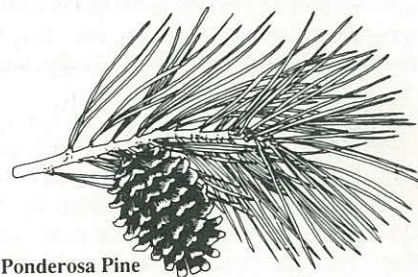
"Our Mother Earth"

Use them wisely and recycle.

This magazine is printed on recycled paper.

### NEXT BRB DEADLINE

**May 15, 1992**



Ponderosa Pine  
*Pinus ponderosa*



## Note 3:

### THE SUGAR-BUSH TRAIL — NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT —

An abandoned railroad corridor runs from Eaton Rapids through Charlotte, Nashville, Hastings, Middleville, ending in Grand Rapids. This trail is a major link with an East/West trail in Kent County as well as a planned Northern rail trail to Cadillac.

The development of this trail system faces some unique challenges with land owners on the trail's right-of-way who do not understand the benefits of being able to recreate right out your back door. If you are a bicyclist, horse rider, hiker, or cross country skier living anywhere in Michigan, please contact :

Future Charlotte!  
Recreation Committee  
Trail Subcommittee  
347 Prairie Street  
Charlotte, MI 48813

and/or

Sugarbush-Thornapple Trail  
Association  
11220 Keller Rd  
Shelbyville MI 49344-9612  
(616) 664-4792



## Note: 4

## IT'S RIDE TIME

April 11-13 1992

**MOUNTAIN BIKERS FROM  
MID-MICHIGAN MEET THE  
NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL**  
(Newaygo section)

Overnight Accommodations: Cabins with beds, showers, kitchens and laundry facilities on site - availability limited- \$15.00 per-person per night.

Rider Ability - This is a leisurely trail ride. **No racing is permitted.** We will be guests of the North Country Trail Association. Bring your cameras. On past NCT trips there have been many photo opportunities.

If you would like to find out more about this area and how you can make arrangements to ride this portion of the NCT contact, Dennis Hansen - (517) 349-4683. **BRB**

### HOW DO YOU BENEFIT FROM THE MMBA?

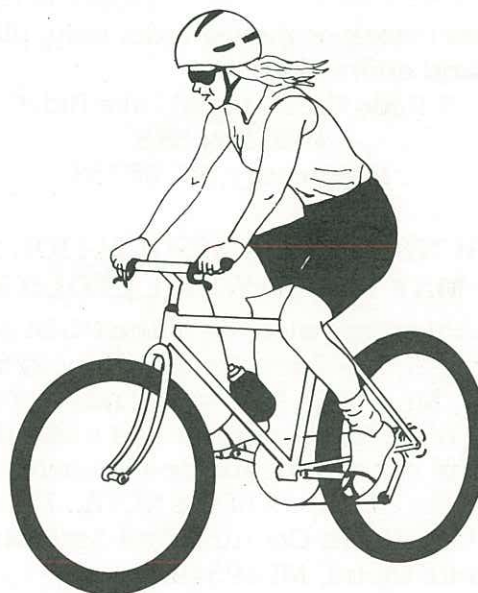
- Land Access Updates (see page 2)
  - Where to ride/Trail Reviews (see Chapter Chatter in this issue)
  - How to contact park officials and legislators (see Sugar Bush art.)
  - Chapter Membership - opportunity to get involved at many levels (contact your chapter president see chapter chatter in this issues)
  - Special Events: 1992 Points Series, MMBA Fun Day in July 1992, chapter rides, excursions, etc.
  - Rider Education/Safety Training (read Notes for Your Fanny Pack in this issue)
  - Discount at member bikes shops (contact your local MMBA MEMBER BIKE SHOP to see if they participate)
  - Membership in the MMBA is currently at about 500 individuals statewide. There are five chapters. Each chapter can share with you areas that have the best riding. The MMBA is one voice in the state that is totally involved with the needs and concerns of mountain bikers.
- The MMBA is you!

### BENT RIM BUGLE PUBLISHING INFO

The Bent Rim Bugle (BRB) is published 4 times a year (quarterly) Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. The BRB is the source for news and information from the Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA). Articles come from MMBA members, MMBA Chapter Presidents, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and other sources. The focus of the BRB is on what is of interest to MMBA members as well as environmental issues, land access, mountain biking events, rides, competition and other activities and information related to the mountain biking.

Editorial contributions and photos are welcomed, but can not be returned unless accompanied by proper postage. Send contributions to: MMBA/BRB P.O. Box 29, Belmont MI 49306. The BRB also can provide classified ads to MMBA members for free and advertising space to shops and manufactures. For deadlines and rates contact the address above or call, (616) 784-9327.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the MMBA, Publisher, or MMBA members, Dealers, or Sponsors.





Sunday February 23, 1992

Bob Ingram, Region III Parks  
Michigan DNR  
Box 30028  
Lansing, MI 48909  
Hello Bob,

My name is Tom Pilutti and I as well as my family are hikers and bikers on the trails at Pinckney State Recreation Area. Rumor has it that the DNR program in the works to regionalized park management may result in the transfer of Jon La Bossiere. I am aware of the budgetary issues driving this action, and feel that proper implementation of the plan can save funds. The part that concerns me, however, is the thought of Jon being relocated.

Jon has done a tremendous amount to promote multi-use activities in the park so that just about everyone has a reason to want to come to Pinckney. He has adopted a pro-active policy of multi-use that is most refreshing in these days of increasing regulation and budgetary pressures. Jon could very easily sit back and manage with his feet up on a desk and refuse all attempts to see that the park grows with the needs of the people of Michigan. This is where Pinckney Rec. Area really is the exception. Jon has worked with many special interest groups to make multi-use a reality. There are biathlons, mountain bike riding, cross country skiing, Sierra Club hikes and Boy Scout shindigs all coexisting at Pinckney. Unfortunately, I cannot think of any park in Southeast Michigan with more to offer.

All of these are the result of Jon La Bossiere. If Jon leaves, I fear that the person filling his shoes will be more concerned about keeping them polished than keeping them on the path that Jon has blazed. Please keep Jon in our region.

Thomas E. Pilutti  
Ann Arbor, MI

Thanks for listening,

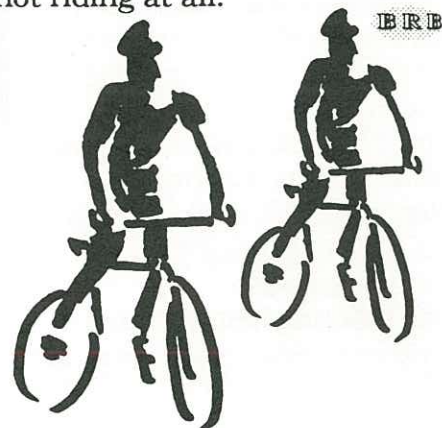
Thomas E. Pilutti  
Member MMBA  
Earthwatch Society

Lansing. Especially if you ride at a state park, recreation area, on a state forest trail or wildlife area. How far reaching the budget cuts will be is anyone's guess. To assume that every land steward will be as supportive, as ambivalent and/or as challenging as the one who is in charge right now is short-sighted.

Taking the time now to express your opinion will make sure that the DNR is aware that someone is

watching them and will hold them accountable for the decisions they make.

If you take a moment to write now you may continue to ride in the future. If you choose to let someone else do it, you may end up writing later and not riding at all.



## — HERE TODAY...GONE TOMORROW —

By Dwain Abramowski

Over the last several years I've worked with DNR officials of one capacity or another in Michigan as well as around the rest of the country. I've met with these officials in person, talked with them on the phone, written letters and exchanged information with them and even shared a meal with some of them. I've met some very knowledgeable, hard-working and concerned individuals. However, I've worked with some DNR officials here in Michigan who have been just as on top of it all and then some.

The letter above illustrates the positive affect good land managers can have on a park or forest where people recreate and nature abounds. I have also had the pleasure of working with Jon La Bossiere and written a letter to Bob Ingram. I need to write a letter to about a dozen different departments supporting the people in the DNR who support the lands and the people who use the lands.

You too, have a responsibility to respond to the budget cuts that are sweeping through



## Southeast Chapter Re-Organization Begins

By Chris Delridge

During the past mountain biking season, the Southeast Chapter of the MMBA experienced inefficacy and apathy, almost to the point of collapse. This rapid decline of a highly successful organization illustrates the difficulties faced by its officers. With many personal and professional demands placed on these individuals, time and energy became rare commodities.

Understandable as this is, the true failure came in the lack of establishing new officers able to better fulfill the responsibilities of these positions. This, however, would not have been an easy task.

The many projects and accomplishments of the past years have been developed, enacted and attended by a small minority of the this chapter's members. An example of this apathy is the fact that despite the absence of chapter newsletters, trail rides or trail maintenance projects, there's been very few complaints or inquiries.

On Sunday, November 17, an emergency Board of Directors meeting was called by chapter V.P. Jeff Fooks. In attendance was Jeff, board members Wes Watt and Karen Miller, former Secretary Chris Delridge and chapter members Don LeHue, Mark Bolish, Sharon Watt, Bob Wedding and Ted Smith. This meeting was the first step in the re-organization of the Southeast Chapter for the '92 season.

The meeting began with a critique of the past two years of

the Southeast Chapter. This re-examination emphasized the enthusiastic and exciting goals originally set for the chapter and the need to be more realistic and limited in our efforts.

Of immediate concern was the need to hold elections of officers for the upcoming year. Towards this goal, Chris Delridge, former Secretary was formally reinstated to that position and elections were set for December 12, 1991 at the Royal Oak Activity Center.

Despite poor weather and late notification, 15 dedicated members participated in these important elections. The new officers recognized the sullenness of the proceedings but expressed optimism at their abilities and determination to direct the Southeast Chapter.

Back again as chapter President is Chris Delridge. Chris is a founding member of the MMBA and the Southeast Chapter. Under his leadership, the inaugural year of the Southeast Chapter established it as a recognizable and influential environmental group.

New to the Board of Directors, but not to the Southeast Chapter is newly elected Vice President Don LeHue. Don comes in with a very realistic and straight forward management style. Having participated

in many past activities and projects, Don will be mainly responsible for membership. His number one goal is to increase bike shop and other professional memberships.

Also newly elected and equally new to not only the chapter, but to mountain biking in general is Secretary JoAnn Hadley. JoAnn jumps into the sport head first and comes out riding in style. JoAnn's organizational abilities should keep things on track.

Returning again this year is Jeff Fooks, this time as Treasurer. Jeff served in this capacity before and is looking forward to the upcoming season.

Rounding out the Board of Directors positions are Wes Watt, Karen DeCoster-Miller and Bob Wedding.

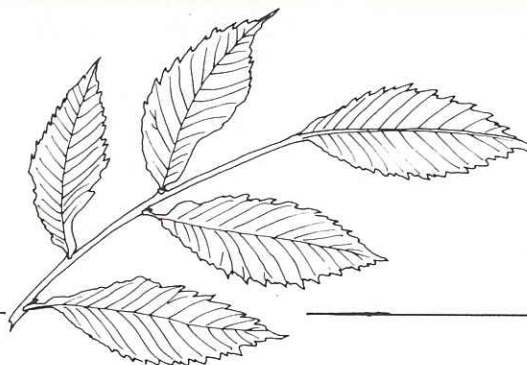
Wes, Karen, and Bob have been with the Southeast Chapter since its inception, providing enthusiasm and hands on hard work during many of our past events.

With a new Board of Directors, the participation of our members and a realistic but excited view of the upcoming season, expect the Southeast Chapter to once again effectively and successfully represent the mountain bikers of Southeast Michigan.

ERB

"Spring hangs her infant blossoms on the trees/  
Rock'd in the cradle of the Western Breeze."

W. Cowper





## Work Continues On The North Country Trail (NCT)

By Dwain Abramowski

Dennis Hanson a Mid-Michigan Chapter member of the MMBA has provided many MMBA members the opportunity to join him as he explores the trails of northern Michigan. Perhaps you've seen his articles about these excursions in both the *BRB* and *Michigan Cyclist Magazine* and information on the NCT; in a recent issue of *NORBA News*. I met briefly with Arden Johnson, a member of the board for the North Country trail at our annual meeting. Mr. Johnson expressed interest in working together with mountain bikers on portions of the North Country trail in a multi-user group situation.

Mr. Johnson has met with members of the MMBA who live near Traverse City and northward and have begun work on projects to develop new portions of the North Country Trail. For those of you who have ridden sections that are open to mountain biking know what a gas it is to ride and well worth the time and effort. One thing is for certain-the more we contribute, the more we have to gain.

If you're interested in contributing some time and effort to the trails development contact:

Arden C. Johnson  
National Headquarters North  
Country Trails Asso.  
P.O. Box 311  
White Cloud, MI 49349  
(313) 852-0292

BRB

"Life is like a [21] speed [mountain] bike. Most of us have gears we never use..."  
C. Schultz



## Update on Grand Island:

(Excerpt from *Full Circle*, a publication of the Hiawatha National Forest, Munising Michigan.)

"...After considering your comments and all of the information we've learned about the island, we decided that we did not want to select any of the existing alternatives [covered in earlier issues of *Full Circle* newsletter]...Some of them [alternatives] had too much development, some had too little, and some were just not quite right. In the end we decided to create a new alternative by using the best of all the existing alternatives.

The preferred alternative would zone the island. Most development (i.e. a Visitor Center, store with non-motorized equipment rentals, snack bar, restaurant, bed and breakfast, and possible lodge) would be located in an area running from Williams Landing up the southwest side of the island.

The Northwest part of the island would be a little quieter. Visitors could ride on public transportation system to overlooks, a primitive cabins, or backcountry campsites. Hiking, bicycling, and snowmobiling would be allowed along the island's edge.

The northeast part of the island would be non-motorized, year-round. There would be primitive cabins and back

country campsites, for hikers and bicyclists, on this side of the island, too.

The thumb, i.e. the part of the island east of Trout and Murray Bays, would be the quietest part of the island with only hiking allowed.

Hunting, fishing, and trapping would be allowed. There would be lots of high-quality interpretation of the island's history and ecology. Some vegetation would be managed to help wildlife and threatened, endangered, and sensitive plants.

In a nutshell, that's it. Now comes the hard part. Waiting. This alternative will be analyzed for its environmental, social, and economic effects just like the other seven [other alternatives available from National Forest Service] All of this information will be in the DEIS.

The best way that you can comment on the preferred alternative, and this whole process, is to get hold of the DEIS and/or attend a public meeting on Grand Island. If you want the DEIS, send me a note and I will make sure you get a copy when it is finished this summer. Public meetings will begin just as soon as the DEIS is finished...if you would like for someone from the Forest Service to come and talk with your group about Grand Island, drop us a note..."

Julie Foscender  
Outdoor Recreation Planner  
Hiawatha National  
Forest/MRD  
400 E. Munising  
Munising, MI 49862

BRB



## DNR CHANGING PARK & REC. AREA STRUCTURE

By DON LEHUE

While changes are taking place in the Southeast Chapter, changes are also taking place in the State Department of Natural Resources. These DNR changes, however, are ominous, and may actually endanger the very trails we've struggled to maintain access to, the water we drink, and the very air that we all breathe.

As many of you may have already read or heard, Governor John Engler has enacted, without public forum, a restructuring of the DNR with the excuse of trying to save money. Two of Governor Engler's main ideas are to make the DNR more accountable to the bureaucracy that the department itself serves, and elimination of a number of water and air pollution control commissions. These sweeping changes only serve to take the public out of the decision making process and open the door to powerful industry lobbies to have their way with our precious natural resources, all under the pretext of saving a buck.

In addition to these changes, the DNR is currently restructuring the management and working staff of the many state park and recreation areas.

Russell Harding, hired as Chief of Parks only a few short months ago, has devised a "Core-Satellite Park Program" in which various parks will be appointed core parks. These core parks will continue to be fully staffed and open all year round. Each core park will have

one or more parks in close proximity deemed "satellite" parks, which will be administered by their respective core park manager.

Satellite parks will be closed with no maintenance or supervision between October 31 and April 1. Satellite park managers and employees will be re-assigned or eliminated through attrition and/or lay-offs during these winter months.

**...These DNR changes, however, are ominous, and may actually endanger the very trails we've struggled to maintain access to, the water we drink, and the very air that we all breathe.**

Because of this, access to the remaining over-burdened park managers will be very difficult if not impossible. Seasonal employees at the satellite parks will be hard pressed to maintain the safety and cleanliness in the parks to which the many users have grown accustomed. How can anyone "close" thousands of acres of state land to those who care nothing about signs or fences?

In fact, Russell Harding's direct orders prevent any park personnel from issuing violations to anyone trespassing on state lands off-season. Vandalism and motorized off-road

vehicle damage will cost much more to repair in the spring if a constant presence is not kept on our state lands.

At a meeting of the Friends Of Bald Mountain Recreation Area, October 28th, Mr. Harding stated that public safety, protecting natural resources, well maintained facilities, and visitor services were important requirements of a natural park system. Mr. Harding also expressed that "seasonal" positions would increase while park managers were recently told to expect the same or less money to hire seasonal help this year.

By reducing staffing and funding, he is contradicting the very ideals he holds in esteem for a park system. With less staffing for law enforcement, park maintenance and safety, and the elimination of environmental commissions, the public will soon be in danger. What if someone is injured, poisoned, or worse, because the DNR had removed or changed the policies that protected the park users?

These dangers may be costly, indeed, for the price of litigating a lawsuit against the state may be more than the DNR is trying to save. Is the state more concerned about the welfare of those who live here, work here, and enjoy our beautiful park system, or is Mr. Harding only worried about the fastest way to balance a ledger sheet?

Many of our parks bring in a significant portion of its revenues from winter time users. Should these parks be abandoned and these earnings lost for five months out of every

(cont. next page)



**(Structure cont.)**

year? Such actions may certainly only make some parks less efficient than they truly are.

According to a high level park employee who wishes to remain anonymous, this may simply be a plan to over-burden park management to the extent that making the parks private becomes inevitable. Already, our local Rochester-Utica Recreation Area has been sectioned and now falls under the jurisdiction of the City of Rochester (for the Bloomer Unit), and Shelby Township (the remaining Macomb County property).

From all accounts, Mr. Harding's idea of a State Park is surely different from most of us. Mr. Mike LaGerould, Chairman of the Friends of Bald Mountain Committee, said that during a tour of the park, Mr. Harding commented that he would like to see activities such as water-slides, arcades and miniature golf. Mr. Harding also commented that the only people who use state parks and recreation areas are those that live nearby. This observation is totally unfounded, shown by our own chapters and the number of members who travel across southeast Michigan to enjoy the various trails.

Supporters of Governor Engler's reorganization of the DNR feel that it has been a long time coming. Many believe that the DNR has become a bureaucratic nightmare with no regard for public opinion. For that matter, the current system of administration fails to even seek input from the park managers themselves.

Presently, park managers,

who should be the best judges of what their parks need and what the public demands, have absolutely no input into the budget making process. On top of this disregard for the experience and knowledge of some of the most qualified DNR employees, these managers don't receive their operating budgets until as late as half way into the fiscal year.

Many a company has pulled itself from bankruptcy by shifting managerial responsibilities to middle or lower level management. This may work equally well with the DNR.

As for what this means to mountain bikers, plenty. With the increased work load that is being placed on the current park managers and the various transfers, it will become increasingly more difficult to meet and discuss trail issues.

Staff cuts and the abandoning of large recreation areas will result in poorer trail conditions and even fewer riding areas.

What can we do?

Begin by writing letters to the DNR and your local state representative. Let them know you're concerned and that you want public hearings on any and all changes within the DNR.

With these changes, much more voluntary trail maintenance and clean-ups will be needed. We need to stay organized and ready to assist the parks staff in order to keep these trails open for riding. By "coming to the rescue" we will show that we are serious about the conditions of the parks and trails of Michigan.

You can also help by keeping your MMBA membership current and encouraging others to join. The MMBA is in constant contact with the DNR and is consistently working to keep the trails open and to open more.

As these changes in the DNR show, trail access is not a mute subject but a serious concern, not only mountain bikers, but to skiers, hikers, and equestrians as well.

BRB

## In The Next Issue Of The BRB!

**Out-state update: Wisconsin/Ride** (Recreation for Individuals Dedicated to the Environment)

- Panel Will Re-Examine Mountain Bike Trail Ban On Kettle Moraine...

**Eco-Tours, Mountain Biking In Searchmont Canada**

- Mountain Biking *is* mountain biking here, and the riding in these mountain woodlands is an experience second to none. Look for the article in the next BRB.

**Will Al Sabo re-open?**

**New Federal legislation-**

Assures improved bicycle programs nationwide? Does it?

**A better environment...**

Does it end, or begin with your bike?

**Who will be a Sponsor for the 1992 MMBA points series?**

Find out in the next BRB!

**Plus much MORE!**

**Editorial Deadline May 15th**





## CHAPTER CHATTER...

### On Display:

As was mentioned elsewhere in the BRB, the display that Chris Delridge made help the MMBA and its chapters showcase everything that is special about us. You can contribute to making this display even that much better, by sharing pictures, posters, and other memorabilia that celebrates your chapter or the MMBA.

Arrangements can also be made in some cases to use the display at special events and activities. Contact Chris and see if you can work something out. It's elaborate mind you, and it's not something you can just whip together, on the other hand it is worth the time and effort if you and your chapter is serious about having everyone learn more about the MMBA and it's local chapters. Contact Chris Delridge for more information at (313) 3721382.

### The West Michigan Chapter

By Dave Klein

The West Michigan Chapter has been busy at work organizing and planning upcoming events. We'll be planning a weekend trip of fun and riding on the Jordan River Trail near Charlevoix. We're also going to start weekly rides in April if trail conditions are favorable.

The participation within this chapter has been outstanding with regard to publication of the newsletter and the overwhelming response to the adopt-a-road program. Twenty-one members volunteered to clean the roadside four times a year.

**The Western Michigan Chapter of the MMBA had a trash out/maintenance/ Trail building day April 4, at Deep Lake Campground in Yankee Springs Recreation Area. On April 11, they will be doing a road side clean up on a road that leads to one of the few mountain biking areas near Grand Rapids, on Cannonsburg road. Call Dave at (616) 361-8779 for more info.**

We're planning to head north to assist in maintaining of the North Country trail near Traverse City. More details to follow in the near future about this project.

Ed. Note: "...most of Michigan's citizens see Michigan's public wild-lands as a natural resource and a recreational treasure, but there is a minority who see wild-lands as a dumping ground for their trash...the successful Adopt-A-Highway program has eliminated the litter that once blighted our roadsides. The problem is now off the beaten track.

The MUCC estimates that three million acres of public land in Northern Michigan [alone] are spoiled by an estimated 200,000 cubic yard of illegally dumped trash.

Placed end to end, that means three miles of rusting car bodies, 167 miles of dirty discarded sofas, mattresses and once-upholstered chairs, 66 miles of worn out stoves, refrigerators and washing machines, 29 miles of blown-out tires and mountains of shingles, demolition material and yard waste..." Source Michigan Country Lines, Nov./Dec. 91

*....there are two ways that the community can become aware of cyclists. One is through educational programs and helpful publicity. A second way non-cyclists and/or members of the community at large can become acquainted with the sport is through unpleasant...encounters with thoughtless and inconsiderate cyclists....*

### Bicycle USA Mid-Michigan Notes:

Karen Harkness, Park Liaison for Grand River Park, reported that Grand River will NOT be open until May. Please do not ride your mountain bike there until the park officially opens, it could jeopardize our relationship with park officials.

It was mentioned at the club meeting that Grand River Park is considering the purchase of a number of mountain bikes for rental purposes. The Park Service has requested bids from area bike shops.

### Meetings:

Thirteen people, including one non-member, attended the monthly club meeting on March 4, 1992.

Bob Wilson reported T-shirt sales have done very well. You may still order shirts by calling Bob at (517) 482-5875, or by picking one up at Velocipede Peddler, Denny's Schwinn Stores and Central Park Bicycles.

Pat Dueweke, our chapter president, reported the Bake Sale at the state meeting took in about \$70.00.

Members of our chapter board are completing an application to the DALMAC fund for a grant to help defray the cost of printing and mailing our newsletter. The application must be completed by the first of April.



# MMBA SHOP AND MANUFACTURER MEMBERS

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Bike Haus, INC.  
9977 E. Grand River  
Brighton, MI 48116  
(313) 227-5070

Breakaway Bicycles  
Western  
5742 S. Westnedge  
Kalamazoo MI 49002  
(616) 349-5555

Brick Wheels  
430 West 14th Street  
Traverse, MI 49684  
(616) 947-4274

Michigan Cyclist Magazine  
Castelli Publications/Western Chapter  
150 Fountain NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
(616) 454-0155

Central Park Bicycles  
1805 Central Park Dr.  
Okemos, MI 48864  
(517) 349-8880

Chicago Drive Schwinn -  
Kentwood Schwinn  
Western Chapter  
4300 Chicago Drive  
Grandville, MI 49418  
(616) 531-9911

Denny's Schwinn/Central Park  
**All Locations**  
Mid Michigan Chapter  
1096 Bonanza  
Okemos, MI 48864  
(517) 349-2366  
- 1215 E. Grand River  
- 143 N. Harrison  
- 5023 W. Saginaw

Fun Promotions  
Western Chapter  
P.O. Box 1383  
Grand Rapids, MI 49501  
(616) 363-6552

Highwheeler Bicycles  
Western Chapter  
211 River  
Holland, MI 49423  
(616) 396-6084

In Flight Creations  
P.O. Box 184  
Belmont, MI 49306  
(616) 784-9327

Ingham County Parks & Rec.  
P.O. Box 38  
Mason, MI 48854  
(517) 676-2233

MacClean Construction Co.  
P.O. Box 190  
Ludington, MI 49431  
(616) 845-6275

Oakland Cty. Parks and Rec.  
Pontiac Lake Chapter  
2800 Watkins Lake Road  
Waterford, MI 48054

Pro Cycle Centers  
3592 W. Maple  
Birmingham, MI 48301  
(313) 646-7565

Sleeping Bear Race Promotions,  
430 W. 14th Street  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
(616) 947-4274

ITT Sports Managemnt  
2205 Dexter  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
(313) 662-4226

Tom Nell Bicycles, LTD.  
Pontiac Lake Chapter  
2528 Elizabeth Lk. Rd.  
Pontiac, MI 48054

Velocipede Peddler  
Mid Mi Chapter  
541 E. Grnad River  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
(517) 351-7240

ZZ Underwater World  
1806 E. Michigan Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48912  
(517) 485-3894

## Cycling Club Members

Cherry Capital Cycling Club  
P.O. Box 1807  
Traverse City, Mi 49684

**TO ALL THE SHOPS AND  
MANUFACTURERS WHO SUPPORT  
THE EFFORTS OF THE MMBA AND  
ITS MEMBERS - THANK YOU  
IF YOU DO NOT SEE YOUR  
NAME HERE BUT WOULD LIKE  
TO, CONTACT THE MMBA AT  
(616) 784-9327.**

**BRB DEADLINE MAY 15**

## New Members

(New feature starting with those  
who joined in March of 1992)

William Lindhout  
Robert Jack  
Carl Calille  
Craig and Diane James &  
Family  
Judith Loescher  
Thomas Guse  
Mike O'Reilly  
C. Pell  
Richard Williams  
Michael Motowski  
Erik Jensen  
Douglas Norlin  
L. Brooks  
Ben Emery  
David Brown  
Bob Wedding  
Amy Sapulski  
Tim Klifman  
Dave Furey

**Thank You For  
Your Support!**



# Multi-Use Trail Events:

## Sierra Club Dates To Remember:

April 5: Island Lake Hike. 14 miles annual prep for the 17 miler. Join Vince Smith and company or call him at (313) 231-1257

April 12: Annual Potowatomi Trail Hike. Come join us for the full 17 miles and experience true exhilaration. For information: (313)483-0058

May 8 - 10: North Country Trail Spring Service Trip. Trail clearing and hiking. Possible work on last gap between the Shore-to-Shore Trail and the Jordan River Pathway. Camping at Pickerel Lake State Forest Campground. More informa-

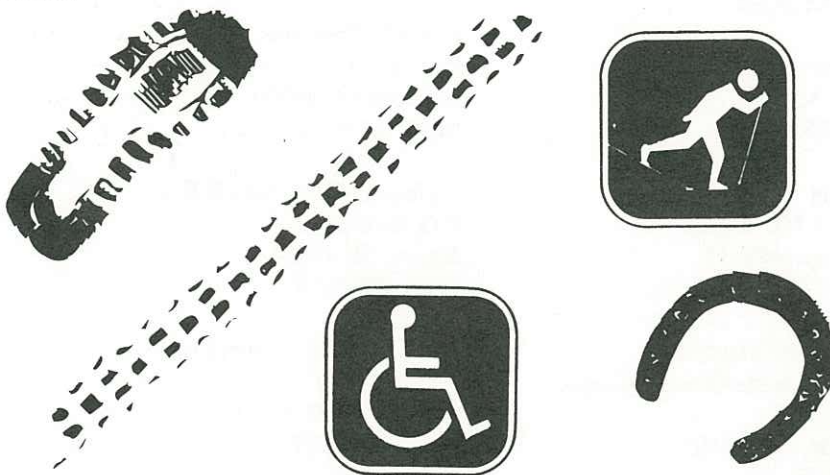
tion: (313) 231-1257.

May 17: Spring Bushwack near the Potowatomi Trail. Off-trail hike to get your heart rate up and appreciate wild things springing forth. Call (313)668-1514.

## Other Events On the Potowatomi Trail:

May 2: Boy Scouts Of America Hike - **400 plus people!**

May 3: Michigan Trails Marathon - **700 plus people!**



**\*Remember the trails you work on and help maintain will be the ones you use - the trails you do not help maintain and work on will be the ones you LOSE!**

## North Country Trail Activities:

April 5: Meeting of NCT Hikers Club (Lansing) 2:00 PM at 550 Boichot Road, Lansing. Trail building demonstration planned.

April 11: Western Michigan Chapter hike.

May 3: Western Michigan Chapter hike.

May 9: Western Michigan Chapter hike.

May 23-25: NCT Hiker's Club (Lansing) will go backpacking

on the NCT in the Manistee National Forest, 21 miles in 2 1/2 days some on steep terrain. Party limit is eight.

June 6: Western Michigan Chapter hike.

**July 19-26: Trail building in northern Michigan near Traverse City. Service trip sponsored by Sierra Club.**

Special Summer Trail Project

Michigan Director Arden Johnson reports that he will be doing trail work on informal projects in northern Wexford

and possibly eastern Charlevoix Counties during the summer, and would be glad to welcome volunteer to assist him. Tools, food, etc., are NOT provided, and there is not set schedule, so you will have to contact him to make arrangements. For more information, contact Arden Johnson, 600 Tennyson, Rochester Hills, MI 48307 (313) 853-0292.

**\*Yes, it's just about that simple. If you don't get it you won't ride it. Got it.**



## A VIEW FROM

## THE WEST COAST

BY JEFF TURCK

*Editor's Note: I was cleaning my office and look what I found: a letter from Jeff Turck, Member of the year in 1990. Jeff is now living in California and keeping us abreast of what is happening out there so we can get a jump on it here. Jeff attended IMBA Fest last summer, and though I should be impeached for losing his report for us (Please! I feel this is definitely grounds for me to lose my job as president...) I think the information is interesting as well as fun to read. It gives us an opportunity to see how those guys on the other side of the country work and Jeff's story helps us gain a perspective of this year's IMBA Fest. Sorry Jeff. But hey, send me another one and I'll try and do better...lose it for a whole year!*

## IMBA Fest

The sixteen hour drive from San Jose to Seattle along I-5 really started to become interesting as we were about an hour south of Redding. From here you can see the tip of Mt. Shasta as it reaches up to the clouds. Every mile brings you closer to it's magnificence. Another hour beyond Redding puts you at the base of Mt. Shasta and it takes 45 minutes to go around it. It's truly amazing since the area surrounding Mt. Shasta is flat, while this 14000' snow capped beauty is out in the middle of nowhere.

The drive through Oregon rolls north along mountain passes providing views of beautiful valleys. It seemed all of Oregon is forested mountains.

The occasional clear-cuts remind us of the necessity for environmental preservation.

Shortly after crossing the border into Washington (having downed gallons of cola and high calorie junk food to get there on time) it began to rain. Ah yes, welcome to Washington!

I arrived at the park where the Klein sponsored IMBA Fest was held, at 8:30 A.M. The seminars began at 9:00. Seminars on trail construction, public advocacy, and mountain bike basics were offered [ed. Perhaps we should have info like this at next year's annual meeting? Let me know.] I attended the trail construction seminar naturally, as it was most pertinent to the needs of the MMBA. [Way to go Jeff!]

**Another hour beyond Redding puts you at the base of Mt. Shasta and it takes 45 minutes to go around it. It's truly amazing since the area surrounding Mt. Shasta is flat, while this 14,000' snow capped beauty is out in the middle of nowhere.**

Mike Dolfey from the U.S.F.S. gave a remarkably detailed presentation of the "Trail Hardening Test" [MMBA now has this document if you need it] done in the state of Washington. We learned about 4 types of trail construction, how to do them, the fiscal details, and which were most effective. The

4 types discussed were grass-grid blocks, geo-web, eco 50, and soil cement. All four methods are labor intensive and cost \$9.09, \$6.03, \$7.75 and \$6.67 per foot respectively.

Next, Berry Wibour from N.W. Trails Inc. presented his view of trail construction from a private contractor's perspective. He stressed that professional trail construction teams do the job better, quicker and for less money. (What would we expect him to say?) The heavy equipment they use are Morrison Trail Blazers and Bobcats.

The last speaker was Bern Smith from the "Trail Center" which is a volunteer group in San Jose. Bern Stressed the importance of properly training their volunteers and crew leaders. Financial support for the Trail Center comes from two interesting sources. The Packard Foundation, and R.E.I., which provides grants of \$10,000 annually. Bern then stood on a soapbox and spoke on saving the earth and joining environmental activist groups which prompted me to head for the table of jelly rolls and donuts. I guess I wasn't expecting to be preached to, but it was Sunday, so all in all it didn't cause me to much indigestion...

The trail seminars concluded and gave way to single track riding in the Olympic National Forest. Any chance to ride in Washington, take it. It's like prehistoric times. Huge trees form a canopy overhead while the forest floor is covered with ferns. It's so lush, it seems like a baby dinosaurs, is waiting for you around the corner.

(Cont. on pg. 19)



# THE MMBA POINTS SERIES FINAL STANDINGS FOR 1991

## Pro-Expert

1. Lisa Leon
2. Lorena Seldon
3. Cheryl Burford
4. Elise Harrington
5. Donna Malski

## Sport

1. Lorena Seldon
2. Joeline Smith
3. Stefani Day
4. Mary Davison
5. Pam Savick
6. Susanne Forrester
7. Donna Malski
8. Karen Standley

## Beginner

1. Pam Savick
2. Debra Sioff
3. Meg Comeau
4. Mary Davison
5. Lynn Babcock
6. Cathy Stramaglia
7. Sharon Watt
8. Suzanne Pierce
9. Roxanne Montague

## Pro-Elite

1. Mark Cramer
2. Steven Hammett
3. Keith Ketterer
4. Ed Reid
5. Marty Minka
6. Donald Fedrigon Jr.
7. Dan Packman
8. Jeff Smith
9. Kevin Nowak
10. James Williamson
11. Erik Borgnes

## Expert I up to 25

1. Joe Fritsch
2. Jeff Laino
3. Mike O'Reilly
4. Andrew Rice
5. Ron Bollenbergh
6. Steven Ragan
7. Jon Kerkhof
8. Bob Lawson
9. Brian Greene
10. Chris Kreple
11. Jamson Hendler

## Expert II 26+

1. David Maclean
2. Randy Guymer
3. Brian Creeger
4. Jeffrey Smith
5. Wendell Woodruff

## (expert II cont.)

6. Dan Klein
7. Tom Pilutti
8. Craig James
9. Keith Riege
10. Lars Welton
11. Chris Bradley
12. Randy Dickerson
13. Robert Bergren
14. Brent Walk
15. Michael Seaman
16. Scott McLaren

## Sport

### Junior up to 17

1. Bob Lawson
2. Grant Loutit
3. Chris Haraburda
4. Pete Johnson
5. Michael OBrien
6. Jeremy Tuggle
7. Bob Smith
8. Mark Lawson

### Senior I 18-25

1. Jay Campbell
2. Bill Deitlin
3. Todd Ulrich
4. Richard Susan
5. David Nichols
6. Joel Breazeale
7. Dan Mullins
8. Brian Greene
9. Timothy Kral
10. Sam Markley
11. Brian Kaczmarek
12. Steven Vreeken
13. Matthew Colligan
14. Bret Austin
15. Mike Grant
16. John Root
17. Eric Nord
18. Danial Payne
19. Ryan Ojerio
20. Jon Bensinger
21. Tom Ardelean
22. Steve Ganes
23. Mark Kubas
24. Luke Johnson
25. Paul Kissel

### Senior II 26-34

1. Craig James
2. Tim Donnelly
3. Dave Hollis
4. Mike Teel
5. Craig Gietzen
6. Timothy Woolard

## (senior II cont.)

7. Larry Jeurink
8. Kent Buta
9. Eric Toth
10. Douglas Cornell
11. Steven Wester
12. Ron Goudrie
13. Brian Delaney
14. Lewis Tripp
15. Dave Murer
16. Bill Fischer
17. Steve Ross
18. Richard Kaupp
19. Ted Ruys
20. Chris Magerl
21. Brian Land
22. Tracy Bartow
23. Greg Weber
24. Dean Mazzola
25. Jeff Barefoot
26. Jeff Weber
27. Steve Pruett
28. Steve Hansen
30. Dan Lafforgue
31. Jeff Martin
32. David Skibowski
33. Jonny O'Dirty
34. Kurt Schroeder
35. Oren Kennedy
36. John Jarrell
37. Dennis Huver
38. David Dutmer
39. Gregory Vidro
40. Erik Ekman
41. Michael Clark
42. James Janik
43. Chris Tschirhart
44. Clete Swanson
45. George Christie
46. Douglas Norlin
47. Shawn Tyrrell

## Vet 35-44

1. Matt Daly
2. Don Camp
3. Gary Moore
4. Reinhold Cordella
5. Mike Motowski
6. Steve Gerthel
7. Don Stange
8. Gregory Olgee
9. Paul Gillan
10. Jeff Voorhis
11. Gary Stephenson
12. John Geiger
13. Chuck Davis

14. John Gallagher
15. Joel Groendal
16. Pat Lynch
17. Lars Welton
18. Paul Fille
19. Michael Hrischuk
20. Joe Matthews
21. Steve Montague
22. Wesley Watt
23. Lavern Rice
24. Richard Greeway
25. Dave Kosonovich
26. Gale Harkness
27. Mike Clark
28. William McLaren
29. Rober Wedding
30. Daryl St. Arno
31. Clark McCall

## Master 45-54

1. Time Greening
2. Thomas Jones
3. Gary Cook
4. Charles Roberston
5. Tom Nell
6. Gary Miller
7. Lavern Rice
8. Ray Ozmun
9. Richard Nash

## Super Master 55+

1. Tom Nell
2. Ken Genest
3. Tory Creech
4. Don Cambell
5. Don Fedrigon Sr.

## Beginner

### Junior up to 17

1. Matt Pierce
2. Michael OBrien
3. Nick Schmidt
4. Jim Coleflesh
5. Chris Haraburda
6. Ryan Bobel
7. William Gildhaus
8. Matt Gordon
9. Chris Lipovsky
10. Jason Dunne
11. Jeremy Irwin
13. Rob Hollingsworth
15. Toni Hoogerchel
16. David Theado
18. Sean OBrien
19. Dayne Fisher

### Senior I 18-25

1. Scott Lee
2. Kevin Bauman

3. Paul Wakefield
4. Daniel Jennings
5. Geoffrey Sengoba
6. Andre Bagnasco
7. Jeff Morris
8. Brian Putzke
9. Dave Dekinderen
10. Jeff Alimenti
11. Mark Atkeson
12. John Auguliano
13. Eric Croy
14. Jole Servais
15. Douglas Tobias
16. Jon Bensinger
17. Brian Hietula
18. John Case
19. John Haffenden
20. Jay Kelly
22. David Smith
23. Jerry Devries
24. Michael Tingley
25. Jan-Erick Unruh
26. Wesley Smith
27. Matthew Phillips
28. Kirt Juergens
29. Mike Lightfoot
30. Steve Eggleston
31. Rowland Rivero
32. Grent Portensa
33. David Swantek
34. Mike Angus
35. Keff Totten

## Senior II 26-34

1. Lewis Tripp
2. Jim James
3. Britt Michel
4. Jay Jones
5. Bary Seldon
6. William Phelps
7. Monty Munro
8. Steve Ross
9. Dave Denton
10. John Waterman
11. Mark Howell

12. Donald Gordon
13. Greg Tomecek
14. Daryl Gans
15. Steve Gaker
16. Jim Hallberg
17. Mark Ware
18. Eugene Blum
19. Paul Gruber
20. Douglas Vlad
21. Geoffrey Klawson
22. David Jessop
23. Kevin Kerbyson
24. William Vancoillie
25. Ulrich Weissert
26. Tom Northway
27. Curtis Kalina
28. DavidMorgridge
29. Pedro Budbeamer
30. Philip Huyghe
31. Frank Lusebrink
32. Daniel McCarthy
33. Richard Vanderveen
34. Jeffrey Mott
35. Shane Spence
36. Stephen Walker

## Vet 35-44

1. Steve Montague
2. William Lindhout
3. William McLaren
4. Patrick Bruce
6. Gary Campbell
7. Ric Williams
8. John Klepetka
9. Tom Zyskowski
10. Charley Wright
11. Gerald Vanvliet
13. Bart Lead
14. Scott O'Daniel

## Masters 45-54

1. John Reiter
2. Robert Jonkers
3. Don Cambell
4. Lavern Rice

BRB





## — Moving On UP↑

The Purpose of Advancing riders is to achieve more balanced competition within classes. Riders on the following list have been selected to advance based on their 1991 performance in selected races and the MMBA Points Series.

Advancement inquires, list of finishes that moved you up to a different class and/ or questions can be directed **in writing** to:

MMBA Race Committee  
P.O. Box 274  
Detroit, MI 48231

### Classes:

#### Beginner

Women: All ages

Men: 13-17 Junior  
18-25 Senoir I  
26-34 Senior II  
35-44 Vetrean  
45-54 Master  
55-up Grand Master

#### Sport:

Woman: All Ages

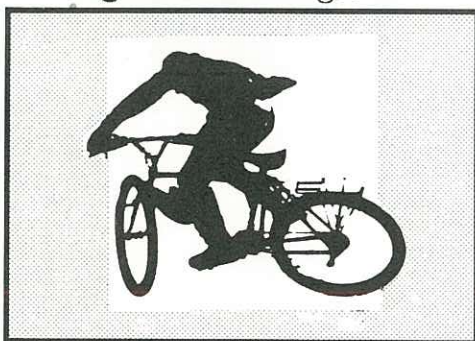
Men: 13-17 Junior  
18-25 Senoir I  
26-34 Senior II  
35-44 Vetrean  
45-54 Master  
55-up Grand Master

#### Expert:

Women: All Ages

Men: up to 25 Senior I  
26-34 Senior II  
35-up Veteran

**Michigan-Pro:** All Ages



### — Woman Beginner — — Up To Sport —

Carolyn Calcutt  
Rhonda Carey  
Mary Davison  
Meg Delaney  
Lori Gauthier  
Aimee Miltich  
Pam Savick  
Debra Sielof  
Donna Ventimiglia  
Lisa Sann-Pauly

### — Woman Sport — — Up To Expert —

Stefani Day  
Karen Deziel  
Judith Donald  
Mararet Sanchez  
Arlette Schneider-Burgat  
Lorena Seldon  
Joelene Smith  
Linda Wood

### — Men Beginner — — To Sport —

Jeff Alimenti  
Ed Andres  
Andrew Bagnasco  
Richard Bonker  
Kevin Bauman  
Ryan Bobel  
Mike Boden  
Patrick Bruce  
Jon Erik Burleson  
Don Campbell  
Gary Campbell  
Greg Carpenter  
Thomas Chishocm  
Jim Colflexh  
Chris Deger  
Dave Dekinderen  
Dave Denton  
Glenn Dik  
David Fabro  
Art Fleming  
John Gonda  
Matt Gordon  
William Guildhaus  
Jim Hilsinger  
Antoon Huygne

Jeremy Irwin  
Jim James  
Jay Jones  
Daniel Jennings  
John Klepethka  
Scott Lee  
Williamn Lindhout  
Andrew Mann  
Britt Michel  
Grandon Miller  
Steve Montague  
Gary Morgan  
Jeff Morris  
Monty Munro  
Larry New  
Chris Nowatski  
Mike O'Brian  
Bob Otwell  
Cliff Onthank  
Dennis Paul  
Tom Pernar  
Clark Phelps  
William Phelps  
Matt Pierce  
Brian Putzke  
John Quiring  
Rumsey Rammony  
John Reiter  
Lavern Rice  
Steve Ross  
Nick Schmidt  
Chad Schutt  
Doug Seeley  
Geoffrey Sengoba  
Garry Seldon  
Jamie Smith  
Stephen Spruit  
Greg Taylor  
Lewis Tripp  
Ilja Vreeken  
Paul Wakefield  
Derk Waldash  
John Waterman  
Rodney Weathers  
David Zuleski  
Robert Jonkers  
William McLaren  
(continued on page 17)



**Name miss-spellings due to  
un-readable master list and/  
or tired volunteer fingers....**



# 1992 MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP POINT SERIES

## TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Major Series Sponsor To Be Announced

**APRIL 12 - KANDAHAR**

FETON (313) 356-7606

**MAY 03 - COOL SKI AREA "THE BIG LAP RACE"**

LEROY (616) 453-4245

**MAY 17 - ADDISON OAKS**

ROCHESTER (313) 858-0906

**MAY 24 - PANDO**

BELDING (616) 453-4245

**MAY 25\*\* - GARLAND (EXHIBITION)**

LEWISTON 1-800-968-0042

**JUNE 13-14\* - SLEEPING BEAR**

TRAVERSE CITY (616) 944-8855

**JUNE 21- KANDAHAR**

**JULY 12 PANDO**

**JULY 19 - ALPINE VALLEY (EXHIBITION)**

MILFORD (313) 887-2180

**JULY 26 - BITTERSWEET**

OTSEGO (616) 381-6769

**AUGUST 02 - CANNONBURG (EXHIBITION)**

CANNONBURG (616) 453-4245

**AUGUST 16 - ALPINE VALLEY**

**AUGUST 30 - BITTERSWEET**

**SEPTEMBER 5\* - ROMEO (EXHIBITION)**

ROMEO (313) 356-7606

**SEPTEMBER 6 - COOL**

**SEPTEMBER 7\*\* - GARLAND**

**SEPTEMBER 13 - KANDAHAR**

**SEPTEMBER 27 - ADDISON OAKS**

**OCTOBER 11 - PANDO**

**NOVEMBER 7\* - ICEMAN**

TRAVERSE CITY (616) 941-7044

**MAY 31- BREAKAWAY**

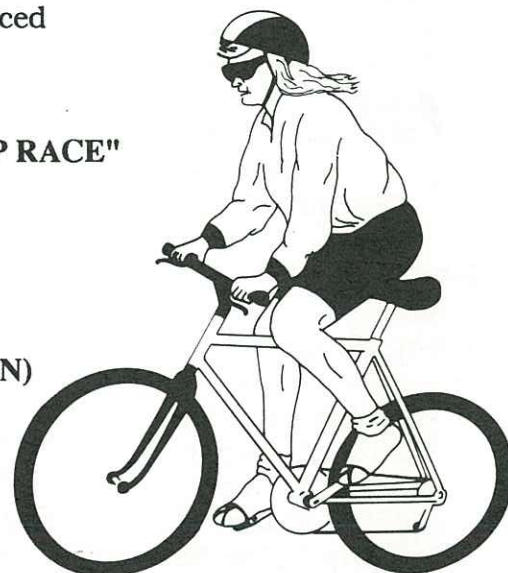
**BICYCLES YANKEE SPRINGS**

**MTB**

TO BENEFIT YANKEE SPRINGS STATE

PARK TRAILS

GUN LAKE (616) 349-555



\*SATURDAY

\*\*MONDAY (HOLIDAY)

**Note: Always check with  
promoter on dates and times.**



**They'll love it...  
and so will you!**

Invite your friends to go bicycling on May 15, 16, or 17, 1992. Just pedal anywhere, any distance to join the fun! For information, or to order a 1992 "I Rode the National Bike Ride" pin (\$3 each), write: National Bike Ride, P.O. Box 588-AD, Middlebury, VT 05753.



**TAKE YOUR FRIENDS FOR A RIDE**  
RIDE THE NATIONAL BIKE RIDE MAY 15-16-17  
SPONSORED BY THE BICYCLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

## AL SABO IN KALAMAZOO IS CLOSED TO BIKING AND HIKING PERIOD.

If you like it that way, hey, you can keep on doing what you are doing. If you'd rather be out in the woods at Al Sabo, riding your bike, breathing fresh air, feeling the cool wind in your face, listening to the sounds of the forest and generally having the time of your life call, Breakaway Bicycles at (616) 349-5555, to find out how you can help open it again.

BRB

### Earth Day:

It's not a day on the calendar, it's how you live your life.

## MOUNTAIN BIKING

### (The Race)

Quiet, fast, smooth, fluid, spinning, turning, grinding, hammering, sweating, burping, ascending, reaching, pulling, summit, falling, dropping, descending, braking, NOT! Speeding, thundering, bolting, streaking, cornering, twisting, winding, handling, dodging, climbing, downshift! Hammer, hammer, hammer! No! Spin!

Calm, sit, drink, eat.  
Following, cranking,  
breakaway, attack,  
sprint, finish, Victory!



By Mike O'Reilly

(Move cont. from pg. 15)

### Men Sport to Expert

Fred Anderson  
Don Camp  
Jay Campbell  
Dan Carey  
Mathew Colligan  
Reinhold Corrella  
Matt Daly  
Bill Dietlin  
Timm Donnelly  
Matt Heiss  
Craig Gietzen  
Dave Hollis  
Graig James  
Chris Johnson  
Bob Lawson  
Doug Melchi  
Gary Moore  
Mike Motowski  
Jerome Nadel  
David Nichols  
Ruk Peterson  
Tim Sc ott  
Richard Susan  
Mike Teal  
Tod Ulrich  
Steve Vreeken  
Mark Washborn  
Larry Nelson



### Expert To

### Michigan Pro

Joe Fritsch  
Brian Creeger  
Jeff Lanino  
Randy Guymer  
David MacClean  
Mike O'Reilly  
Bryan Obermeyer



BRB

### Mistake...Mistake

In the last issue of the BRB we (meaning me, as in I) said that the Douglas Fir was the largest tree, wrong. According to an observant reader of the BRB, the the giant Sequoias of California are the biggest trees. However, most trees a few feet around feel about the same when you hit them at warp speed on a down hill. But don't quote me on that...



# Mountain Biking and Sex: Mountain Biking and Sex: Mountain Biking and Sex:

## A Fantastic Combination, But Do You Have the Guts To Make A Real and Lasting Commitment?

- By Dwain Abramowski

First, the Mountain Biking. I know, I know, I should have saved the best for last. I'm a maniac. I just can't help myself.

Mountain biking is a recreation that is limited only by one's commitment to it. Everyone is into it for their own special reasons. No one does it because they hate it. It's the combinations of the woodlands, weather, exercise, freedom of mobility, the focusing of the senses, the list goes on and on. Mountain biking allows many reasons for getting involved - not just the sex.

Mountain bike racing is another high that is limited only by the individual's commitment to the activity. Many of the general feelings of mountain biking flow over into racing and vice-versa. It's the combination that makes it so great and when you add the other activity as well,...but, we'll get to that in a moment.

There is one more connection that must be made in order to make this "fantastic" combination really work. The combination is between racing and the recreation of mountain biking.

When you go to a race and fork over your hard-earned buck-o-la's, you don't turn around and head home. Your commitment to mountain bike racing is not over when you part with the green and sign the race waver. Quite the oppo-

site. You started weeks (well at least days) ago when you began your training schedule. In other words, it's just beginning. Now that you're registered for the race, you have to warm up, take a few practice laps, get your starting information and then race. Put in the laps. Pump harder and longer and faster than you ever believed possible if you are going to make this mountain biking-sex thing work. Most people never believe that mountain bike racing could be so intense and hard, but it's also more fun than they could ever imagined, and the rewards that follow finishing a race regardless of their place is a feeling that is hard to match. It's right up there with the sex, but as I said we'll get to that in a moment.

Mountain bike racing means you pay your money, then you pay the piper, so to speak and end up with one of the best experiences in your life.

How does this "racing commitment" translate to recreational mountain biking? The commitment must be exactly the same if you expect to enjoy mountain biking for what it really is, just plain fun in the woods. As a **recreational rider or a racer** you must have the same commitment when you dish out your \$20.00 for your MMBA membership. To think that just because you paid \$20.00 and joined the MMBA your work is done, is like going

to a race laying out your cash and going home thinking you'll place first with out putting in any effort to make it happen. And the sex - forget it!

The same is true for the land access concerns that face each and every one of us as mountain bikers. If you do not put in the effort after you drop your \$20.00 bucks, and volunteer to help your chapter leaders, pitch in and mitigate trail impact, do trash outs, attend and contribute at meetings, help with letter writing, and in general, put out a little effort with those twenty Washington's, you have no more right to think that all the trails in your area will remain open and free for you to ride on at your leisure than to think that you'll beat the "Tomes" just by paying your race entry fee.

As for the sex, well let me tell you...in a moment...

So, the dollars you spend racing mean one thing, you've got your work cut out for you. It's a long, hard, intense, fun, rewarding and sometimes seemingly endless commitment you have challenged yourself to, the same goes with joining the MMBA. You have to commit yourself to contribute, or wind up with a DNF stamped on your local trails. Then what do you have? Sex without mountain biking...I can't even think about it.

Now, when you make your  
(continued on pg. 19)



(**Trails Day** cont. from pg. 2)

The purpose of National Trails Day is to give millions of participants a positive trail experience, educating users and the public at large about trails at the same time. The goal is to give Americans answers to these questions:

A) What is a trail?

Trails are urban greenways, rail-trail corridors, and wilderness back-packing trails - paths for recreation and travel.

B) What can you do on trails?

You can walk for exercise or (in some areas) to get from your home to a shopping district, you can run or ride your bike, you can bird watch, backpack, and even ride a horse.

C) Why are trails important?

Trails promote fitness, they

provide access to nature, and they enhance the beauty and livability of communities.

D) Why are trails an environmental issues?

In well planned communities, trails are the backbone of greenways and linear nature corridors which can preserve wetlands and other ecosystems, and provide habitat for plants and animals. Trails also promote access to remote wilderness areas. Access leads to appreciation, which leads to concern and protection.

E) How can individuals get involved?

The most successful trails are supported by an active network of volunteers who build and maintain trails, improve them, contribute money to local grass-roots organizations, and help by

working with elected officials to make trails a priority.

One goal of National Trails Day is to make Americans aware of the potential for developing an interconnected, nationwide system of trails. Interconnected trail systems are already being developed across the country. Most likely there is a connection developing right in your backyard in the form of the extension of the North County Trail, Rail-Trail, and the maintenance and development of existing, and new state forest and state park trails. For more information about National Trails Day contact:

National Trails Day  
1776 Massachusetts Ave.  
Room 212  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 833-8229  
(703) 754-9008 (FAX) BRB

# MDNR Reorganization Update:

Judge Peter D. Houk (30th Circuit Court) ruled that Governor Jon Engler's executive orders to reorganize the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) were illegal and unconstitutional.

According to Wil Cwikiel, Environmental Policy Specialist, "the executive orders not only cut public input out of a decision-making process that has been refined over the past 75 years, but they also do away with the human resources and expertise that was represented on the boards and commissions." Many red flags went up as this opinion prevailed among many sectors of the Michigan community.

Judge Houk's ruling centered around the fact that the reorganization scheme unilaterally dismantled citizen access

to and public involvement in, state decisions regarding protection of our environment and natural resources. According to Judge Houk's decision, "No more basic right exists than the right of the citizenry to be heard." Governor Engler has appealed the decision. The outcome remains to be seen. (Source Watershed Council Newsletter)

BRB

(**Fest** cont. from pg. 13)

I didn't stick around for the elections that night. All the board members were re-nominated and consequently re-elected as there were eight people and eight open seats. [Hummm, sounds familiar...] Instead I went back to my buddy Dave "Sleeper" Allans' pad in Seattle and we proceeded to pound Red Hook Ale (a Seattle micro-brew) and

exchange mountain biking stories...

Thanks Jeff, the date for this years IMBA Fest is coming up and if anyone would like more info on the "Trail Harding Test" Jeff spoke of we have it, just contact me - (616) 784-9327.

BRB

(**SEX** continued from pg. 18)

commitment to mountain biking and add the sex well, this is what you've been reading this for really. It's like reaching the top of the climb at Kandahar...oop's out of space. I'll leave the rest of this article to your imagination. Until next month when we'll talk to Dr. Loose Link, better know as Dr. Loose and he'll explain what to do if you and your mountain bike have had a bad spat, and aren't speaking to each other...

BRB



# (What Meeting? cont. pg. 1)

drop off's to thrill crowds everywhere. Bob ended his performance with a leap over a volunteer from the audience who laid down on stage and got a close up view of Bob's grippy knobies. If you missed Bob in action at the annual meeting you might catch him elsewhere because he and his bike are available for hire. Bob jumps that bike like it has wings...

Those at the annual meeting also had the privilege of hearing from both Phil Wells, Michigan's Rail-Trails Director and Russ Harding, Director of Michigan Department of Natural Resources. They both commented on the states shrinking budget and commended our group's willingness to work with our state park and forest management personnel to care, develop and maintain state lands for mountain biking and all user groups.

The Western Chapter of the MMBA has adopted a portion of a highway close to a favorite riding area near Grand Rapids and Harding was quoted saying, "that

one of your chapters has adopted a highway I think is great. They have shown not only an interest in maintaining trails but are willing to go above and beyond that and say we have a responsibility as citizens of the state in preserving our natural heritage..."

Another suggestion from Harding included a plea for mountain bikers to get involved in their local riding areas and help fill gaps in services that budget constrains accentuate. As for mountain biking, Harding was quoted as saying, "Like any government agency we are subject to public pressure. If we have a highly used trail and have a lot of complaints then we will have to stop and take note." So far things have been fairly cool and those of us who are committed to education and maintenance are seeing the results of the hard work and time spent for the benefit of all mountain bikers across the state.

Our event was covered by a statewide chain of newspapers and received balanced recognition of our commitment to Michigan's trails. The Outdoors Editor for the Booth Newspapers said in an

article about the annual meeting, "...as an organization striving for recognition and credibility on a natural resource-based recreational issues, it appeared the MMBA had arrived."

Also, the MMBA Point Series Winners and the MMBA Member of the Year were honored. Over-all Point Series winner was Mark Cramer, who took first in the Expert class riding for Sling-shot and our Member of the Year was Dianne James, who contributed her time and talents on the computer to get our membership tracking system up to par, and kept track of the MMBA point series for all of 1992. She attended the races, volunteered at the MMBA Point Series Race Table, tabulated points, contacted members and racers and basically made the first year of the Point Series a success.

Mark the first Sunday of February, 1993 on your calendars today, it will be next year's annual meeting date, and if you miss it you'll miss something really special again next year, as any one of the 200 people who were there will tell you.

BIB

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